

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant notes that the PTO-1449 Forms that accompanied Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 18, 2004 and October 15, 2004 have inadvertently not been returned to Applicant with the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to return completed copies of these PTO-1449 Forms with the next official communication in order to confirm the Examiner's consideration of all the submitted materials.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if they are amended to be placed into independent form. By the current amendment, Applicant submits new claim 7 that includes substantially all the limitations of objected claim 2 with its base claim 1. Similarly, Applicant submits new claim 8 that substantially includes all the limitations of objected claim 3 with its base claim 1. Accordingly, claims 7 and 8 are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and such an indication is respectfully requested by the Examiner.

Applicant further submits new claims 9-30 for the Examiner's consideration. New claims 9 to 12 further define the subject matter of claims 7 and 8. These claims are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons applicable to claims 7 and 8. Support for these claims may be found, for example, at pages 33 and 34, and Fig. 5

P23853.A14

of Applicant's application.

New claims 13 to 30 are variations of objected claims 2 and 3. For example, new claim 13 is similar to original claim 1 and objected claim 2, but dispenses with the claim language "at least" in the last clause of the claim. These claims, which include the limitation of either objected claim 2 or 3, are submitted to be allowable over the art of record, and such an indication is respectfully requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). By the current amendment, Applicant cancels these claims in order to advance the application to allowance. However, cancellation of claims 1 and 4-6 should not be taken as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of the rejection. Further, Applicant expressly reserves the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate.

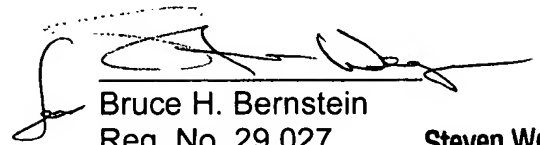
Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized

P23853.A14

to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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February 2, 2005
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